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ORIGINAL

2012-138-C

March 29, 2012

Jocelyn D. Boyd, Esquire
Chief Clerk and Administrator
Public Service Commission of South Carolina
101 Executive Center Drive, Suite 100
Columbia, South Carolina 29211

Re: Certification of the Use of Universal Service Funds pursuant to 47 C.F.R.
§§ 54.313, 54.314; and Telecommunications Act § 254 (e)
CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Ms. Boyd:

On November 18, 2011, the FCC released its *USF/ICC Transformation Order*. With that *Order*, the FCC has begun a transition to a national framework for certification of Eligible Telecommunications Carriers ("ETCs") and has set forth a standard set of information that all ETCs must file by April 1 of each year. The *Order* also requires ETCs to file the same information with the respective state commissions.

For 2012, ETCs must file information by April 2, 2012 that fulfills 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.313(a)(2) through (a)(6) to the extent the information has been provided to the state commissions pursuant to state ETC certification requirements. CenturyLink hereby provides this information to the Public Service Commission of South Carolina as required by the *USF/ICC Transformation Order*. Additional state-specific ETC certification requirements will be provided pursuant to South Carolina obligations and on current filing schedules. Consistent with past years, you will need to certify to the FCC pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 54.314 in order for CenturyLink to continue receiving Federal high cost support in South Carolina.

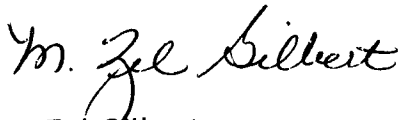
Information that fulfills 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.313(a)(7), (a)(8), and (h) will be filed after notice from the FCC of OMB approval of the new reporting requirements for these items. CenturyLink will provide this information to the Public Service Commission when it is filed with the FCC.

Certain information provided in response to 47 C.F.R. § 54.313(a)(2) is confidential and CenturyLink requests this information be treated as such as provided in the Motion for Protective Treatment filed by separate correspondence of CenturyLink counsel.

Ms. Boyd
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Please do not hesitate to contact me by calling (803) 252-4505 or by e-mail at zel.gilbert@centurylink.com should you have any questions regarding this filing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M. Zel Gilbert". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "Z" and "G".

M. Zel Gilbert
State Regulatory and Legislative Affairs Director GA/SC
CenturyLink

cc: Jeanne W. Stockman, Esquire

2012 ETC Recertification Reports
Report to Satisfy Requirements of FCC-11-161

Name of ETC Applicant: United Telephone Company of the Carolinas, LLC d/b/a
CenturyLink of the Carolinas

Study Area Code: 240506

Filing date: April 1, 2012

State: South Carolina

Person to contact for questions:

Name: Rachel Torrence

Phone number: 303.707.7036

E-mail address: Rachel.Torrence@CenturyLink.com

State Filing Details:

The data contained in this filing complies with the requirements set forth in FCC 11-161 and §54.313 as amended. To the extent that the State of South Carolina requires additional information as part of its normal ETC recertification process; that data will be provided in the scheduled Annual Reporting for previously designated ETCs.

2012 ETC Recertification Reports
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Attachments

Redacted Attachment 2 – Outage Report for United Telephone Company of the Carolinas, LLC d/b/a CenturyLink of the Carolinas for January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2011.

Attachment 5 - Certifications

Report 1: § 54.313 (a) (1) - Five-Year Service Quality Improvement

Plan

1. A progress report on its five-year service quality improvement plan pursuant to § 54.202(a), including maps detailing its progress towards meeting its plan targets, an explanation of how much universal service support was received and how it was used to improve service quality, coverage, or capacity, and an explanation regarding any network improvement targets that have not been fulfilled in the prior calendar year. The information shall be submitted at the wire center level or census block as appropriate

1.1 Previously Submitted Plan

1.2 Narrative of Progress

1.3 Supporting Documents and Maps

Response:

Per the Wireline Competition Bureau's Clarification Order in DA 12-147, issued on February 3rd, 2012, paragraph 7, this provision does not apply to CenturyLink for this filing period.

Report 2: § 54.313 (a) (2) - Outage Report

2. Detailed information on any outage in the prior calendar year, as that term is defined in 47 CFR 4.5, of at least 30 minutes in duration for each service area in which an eligible telecommunications carrier is designated for any facilities it owns, operates, leases, or otherwise utilizes that potentially affect
- (i) At least ten percent of the end users served in a designated service area;
 - Or
 - (ii) A 911 special facility, as defined in 47 CFR 4.5(e).
 - (iii) Specifically, the eligible telecommunications carrier's annual report must include information detailing:
 - (A) The date and time of onset of the outage;
 - (B) A brief description of the outage and its resolution;
 - (C) The particular services affected;
 - (D) The geographic areas affected by the outage;
 - (E) Steps taken to prevent a similar situation in the future; and
 - (F) The number of customers affected.

Response:

See Redacted Attachment 2 – Outage Report for United Telephone Company of the Carolinas, LLC d/b/a CenturyLink of the Carolinas for January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2011.

Report 3: § 54.313 (a) (3) - Requests for Service

3. Report detailing:

- The number of requests for service from potential customers within the recipient's service areas that were unfulfilled during the prior calendar year; and
- The carrier shall also detail how it attempted to provide service to those potential customers.

Response:

United Telephone Company of the Carolinas LLC d/b/a CenturyLink of the Carolinas does not have any outstanding requests for service from 2011 that are unfulfilled at the time of this filing.

Report 4: § 54.313 (a) (4) - Complaints per 1,000 Connections

4. The number of complaints per 1,000 connections (fixed or mobile) in the prior calendar year

Response:

For the period from January 2011 through December 2011, United Telephone Company of the Carolinas, LLC d/b/a CenturyLink of the Carolinas had a total of 0.20 complaints per 1,000 access lines for supported services as reported to any federal and/or state agencies.

Report 5: § 54.313 (a) (5)-(6) - Certifications

5. Certification that Carrier is complying with applicable service quality standards and consumer protection rules. Certification that the carrier is able to function in emergency situations as set forth in § 54.202 (a) (2).

Response:

See Attachment 5 – Certifications including Compliance with Applicable Service Quality Standards, Compliance with Consumer Protection Rules, and Ability to Function in Emergency Situations.

Report 6: § 54.313 (a) (7) – Current Price Offerings

6. The company's price offerings in a format as specified by the Wireline Competition Bureau.

Response:

The Wireline Competition Bureau has not established a format for the requested information, as specified in §54.313(a)(2)(iii)(F)(7), nor has this provision received Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval as of the date of this filing. Therefore, no response is required at this time.

Report 7: § 54.313 (a) (8) - Company Identification

7. The recipient's holding company, operating companies, affiliates, and any branding (a "dba," or "doing-business-as company" or brand designation), as well as universal service identifiers for each such entity by Study Area Codes, as that term is used by the Administrator.

Response:

This provision has not received Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval as of the date of this filing. Therefore, requested information will be subsequently filed as appropriate.

Report 8: § 54.313 (a) (9) - Tribal Outreach

8. To the extent the recipient serves Tribal lands, documents or information demonstrating that the ETC had discussions with Tribal governments that, at a minimum, included:
- 8.1 A needs assessment and deployment planning with a focus on Tribal community anchor institutions;
 - 8.2 Feasibility and sustainability planning;
 - 8.3 Marketing services in a culturally sensitive manner;
 - 8.4 Rights of way processes, land use permitting, facilities siting, environmental and cultural preservation review processes; and
 - 8.5 Compliance with Tribal business and licensing requirements.
 - Tribal business and licensing requirements include business practice licenses that Tribal and non-Tribal business entities, whether located on or off Tribal lands, must obtain upon application to the relevant Tribal government office or division to conduct any business or trade, or deliver any goods or services to the Tribes, Tribal members, or Tribal lands.
 - These include certificates of public convenience and necessity, Tribal business licenses, master licenses, and other related forms of Tribal government licensure.

Response:

Per the Wireline Competition Bureau's Clarification Order in DA 12-147, issued on February 3rd, 2012, paragraph 11, "...ETC's are required to undertake their Tribal engagement obligations in 2012 after ONAP (Office of Native American Programs) provides engagement process guidance, which will be the substance of the reporting beginning April 1, 2013 and annually thereafter." Therefore, this provision does not apply to CenturyLink for this filing period.

Report 9: § 54.313 (f) (2) - Annual Financial Report

Privately held rate-of-return carriers only.

9. A full and complete annual report of the company's financial condition and operations as of the end of the preceding fiscal year, which is audited and certified by an independent certified public accountant in a form satisfactory to the Commission, and accompanied, by a report of such audit. The annual report shall include;

- balance sheets,
- income statements, and
- cash flow statements along with necessary notes to clarify the financial statements.

The income statements shall itemize revenue, including non-regulated revenue, by its sources.

Response:

CenturyLink is a publicly traded Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) registered company. Therefore, this is not applicable to CenturyLink.

Report 10: § 54.313 (g) - Areas with No Terrestrial Backhaul

10. Carriers without access to terrestrial backhaul that are compelled to rely exclusively on satellite backhaul in their study area must certify annually that no terrestrial backhaul options exist.

- 10.1 Carriers without access to terrestrial backhaul that are compelled to rely exclusively on satellite backhaul in their study area must certify annually that no terrestrial backhaul options exist. Any such funding recipients must certify they offer broadband service at actual speeds of at least 1 Mbps downstream and 256 kbps upstream within the supported area served by satellite middle-mile facilities. To the extent that new terrestrial backhaul facilities are constructed, or existing facilities improve sufficiently to meet the relevant speed, latency and capacity requirements then in effect for broadband service supported by the CAF, within twelve months of the new backhaul facilities becoming commercially available, funding recipients must provide the certifications required in paragraphs (e) or (f) of this section in full. Carriers subject to this paragraph must comply with all other requirements set forth in the remaining paragraphs of this section.

Response:

This item is not applicable to CenturyLink.

Report 11: § 54.313 (h) - Additional Voice Rate Data.

11. All incumbent local exchange carrier recipients of high-cost support must report all of their flat rates for residential local service, as well as state fees as defined pursuant to § 54.318(e) of this subpart. Carriers must also report all rates that are below the local urban rate floor as defined in § 54.318 of this subpart, and the number of lines for each rate specified. Carriers shall report lines and rates in effect as of January 1.

Response:

This provision has not received Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval as of the date of this filing. Therefore, requested information will be subsequently filed as appropriate.

Date/Time of Onset of Outage	Description of Outage and Resolution	Particular Services Affected	Geographic Areas Affected	Steps Taken to Prevent	Number of Customers Affected

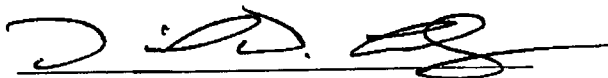
AFFIDAVIT CERTIFYING
COMPLIANCE WITH §54.313(a)(5) AND §54.313(a)(6)

For the CenturyLink ETCs operating in the states as listed in Appendix A, I, David D. Cole, being of lawful age and duly sworn, on my oath and under penalty of perjury, state that I am the Senior Vice President for Operations Support and Controller of CenturyLink, Inc. ("Company") and that I am authorized to execute this Affidavit on behalf of the Company, and the facts set forth in this Affidavit are accurate to the best of my knowledge, information and belief.

The Company hereby certifies to the respective State Regulatory Commission, pursuant to the requirements under 47 C.F.R. §54.313(a)(5) and §54.313(a)(6) that:

- 1) CenturyLink has established operating procedures designed to facilitate compliance with applicable consumer protection rules.
- 2) CenturyLink has established operating procedures designed to facilitate compliance with service quality standards which may include customer remedies and improvement plans. CenturyLink also reports service quality metrics to State Commissions as applicable.
- 3) CenturyLink is able to remain functional in emergency situations as set forth in §54.202(a)(2), and
- 4) all federal universal service support provided to CenturyLink ETCs in their respective states was used in the preceding calendar year and will be used in the coming calendar year only for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended.


FURTHER AFFIANT SAYETH NOT.



DATED this 26th day of March 2012

David D. Cole
SVP – Operations Support and Controller
CenturyLink
100 CenturyLink Drive
Monroe, Louisiana 71203-2041

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this 26th day of March, 2012


Notary Public Carrie K. Snabnett

My Commission Expires: Death - Bar No. 21635

Appendix A

Listing of CenturyLink Eligible Telecommunications Carriers

COMPANY NAME	DBA NAME	Study Area Code	State(s) of Operation
CenturyTel of Alabama, LLC (Northern)	CenturyLink	259789	AL
CenturyTel of Alabama, LLC (Southern)	CenturyLink	259788	AL
Gulf Telephone Company	CenturyLink	250298	AL
CenturyTel of Arkansas, Inc.	CenturyLink	401705	AR
CenturyTel of Central Arkansas, LLC	CenturyLink	401144	AR
CenturyTel of Mountain Home, Inc.	CenturyLink	401711	AR
CenturyTel of Redfield, Inc.	CenturyLink	401720	AR
CenturyTel of South Arkansas, Inc.	CenturyLink	401727	AR, LA
CenturyTel of Northwest Arkansas, LLC (Russellville)	CenturyLink	401142	AR, MO, OK
CenturyTel of Northwest Arkansas, LLC (Siloam Springs)	CenturyLink	401143	AR, OK
Qwest Corporation (Arizona)	CenturyLink QC	455101	AZ
CenturyTel of Colorado, Inc.	CenturyLink	462208	CO
Qwest Corporation (Colorado)	CenturyLink QC	465102	CO
The El Paso County Telephone Company	None	462187	CO
CenturyTel of Eagle, Inc.	CenturyLink	462185	CO, UT
Embarq Florida, Inc.	CenturyLink	210341	FL
Coastal Utilities, Inc.	CenturyLink	220356	GA
Qwest Corporation (Iowa)	CenturyLink QC	355141	IA
CenturyTel of Postville, Inc.	CenturyLink	351274	IA
CenturyTel of Chester, Inc.	CenturyLink	351126	IA, MN
CenturyTel of Idaho, Inc.	CenturyLink	472225	ID
CenturyTel of the Gem State, Inc. (Idaho)	CenturyLink	472223	ID
Qwest Corporation (Northern Idaho)	CenturyLink QC	475162	ID
Qwest Corporation (Southern Idaho)	CenturyLink QC	475103	ID
Gallatin River Communications, LLC	CenturyLink	341057	IL
CenturyTel of Central Indiana, Inc.	CenturyLink	320747	IN
CenturyTel of Odon, Inc.	CenturyLink	320801	IN
United Telephone Company of Indiana, Inc.	CenturyLink	320832	IN, OH
United Telephone Company of Eastern Kansas	CenturyLink	411317	KS
United Telephone Company of Kansas	None	411842	KS

COMPANY NAME	DBA NAME	Study Area Code	State(s) of Operation
United Telephone Company of Southcentral Kansas	CenturyLink	411317	KS
Embarq Missouri, Inc. (Kansas)	CenturyLink	411957	KS
CenturyTel of Central Louisiana, LLC	CenturyLink	270423	LA
CenturyTel of Chatham, LLC	CenturyLink	270427	LA
CenturyTel of East Louisiana, LLC	CenturyLink	270440	LA
CenturyTel of Evangeline, LLC	CenturyLink	270434	LA
CenturyTel of North Louisiana, LLC	CenturyLink	270436	LA
CenturyTel of Ringgold, LLC	CenturyLink	270439	LA
CenturyTel of Southeast Louisiana, LLC	CenturyLink	270424	LA
CenturyTel of Southwest Louisiana, LLC	CenturyLink	270442	LA
CenturyTel of Northwest Louisiana, Inc.	CenturyLink	270431	LA, AR, TX
CenturyTel Midwest - Michigan, Inc.	CenturyLink	310671	MI
CenturyTel of Michigan, Inc.	CenturyLink	310702	MI
CenturyTel of Northern Michigan, Inc.	CenturyLink	310705	MI
CenturyTel of Upper Michigan, Inc.	CenturyLink	310689	MI
CenturyTel of Minnesota, Inc.	CenturyLink	361445	MN
Embarq Minnesota, Inc.	CenturyLink	361456	MN
Qwest Corporation (Minnesota)	CenturyLink QC	365142	MN
CenturyTel of Missouri, LLC (Belle-Herman)	CenturyLink	429785	MO
CenturyTel of Missouri, LLC (Central)	CenturyLink	429784	MO
CenturyTel of Missouri, LLC (Southern)	CenturyLink	429786	MO
CenturyTel of Missouri, LLC (Southwest)	CenturyLink	429787	MO
Spectra Communications Group, LLC	CenturyLink	421151	MO
Embarq Missouri, Inc.	CenturyLink	421957	MO, IA
CenturyTel of North Mississippi, Inc.	None	280458	MS
CenturyTel of Montana, Inc.	CenturyLink	482249	MT
Qwest Corporation (Montana)	CenturyLink QC	485104	MT
Central Telephone Company (North Carolina)	CenturyLink	230471	NC
Carolina Telephone and Telegraph Company LLC	CenturyLink Carolina	230470	NC
Mehtel, Inc.	CenturyLink	230485	NC
Qwest Corporation (North Dakota)	CenturyLink QC	385144	ND
Qwest Corporation (Nebraska)	CenturyLink QC	375143	NE
United Telephone Company of the West (Nebraska)	CenturyLink	371595	NE

COMPANY NAME	DBA NAME	Study Area Code	State(s) of Operation
United Telephone Company of New Jersey, Inc.	CenturyLink	160138	NJ
CenturyTel of the Southwest, Inc.	CenturyLink	492274	NM
Qwest Corporation (New Mexico)	CenturyLink QC	495105	NM
Central Telephone Company (Nevada)	CenturyLink	552348	NV
CenturyTel of the Gem State, Inc. (Nevada)	CenturyLink	552223	NV
CenturyTel of Ohio, Inc.	CenturyLink	300630	OH
United Telephone Company of Ohio	CenturyLink	300661	OH
CenturyTel of Oregon, Inc.	CenturyLink	532361	OR
Qwest Corporation (Oregon)	CenturyLink QC	535163	OR
United Telephone Company of the Northwest (Oregon)	CenturyLink	532400	OR
CenturyTel of Eastern Oregon, Inc.	CenturyLink	532361	OR, CA
United Telephone Company of Pennsylvania LLC, The	CenturyLink	170209	PA
United Telephone Company of the Carolinas LLC	CenturyLink of the Carolinas	240506	SC
Qwest Corporation (South Dakota)	CenturyLink QC	395145	SD
CenturyTel of Claiborne, Inc.	CenturyLink Claiborne	290557	TN
CenturyTel of Ooltewah-Collegedale, Inc.	CenturyLink Ooltewah-Collegedale	290574	TN
United Telephone Southeast, LLC (Tennessee)	CenturyLink	290567	TN
CenturyTel of Adamsville, Inc.	CenturyLink Adamsville	290552	TN, MS
Central Telephone Company of Texas, Inc.	CenturyLink	442114	TX
CenturyTel of Lake Dallas, Inc.	CenturyLink	442101	TX
CenturyTel of Port Aransas, Inc.	CenturyLink	442117	TX
CenturyTel of San Marcos, Inc.	CenturyLink	442140	TX
United Telephone Company of Texas, Inc	CenturyLink	442084	TX
Qwest Corporation (Utah)	CenturyLink QC	505107	UT
United Telephone Southeast, LLC (Virginia)	CenturyLink	190567	VA
Central Telephone Company of Virginia	CenturyLink	190254	VA, NC
CenturyTel of Inter-Island, Inc.	CenturyLink	522408	WA
CenturyTel of Washington, Inc.	CenturyLink	522408	WA
Qwest Corporation (Washington)	CenturyLink QC	525161	WA
United Telephone Company of the Northwest (Washington)	CenturyLink	522400	WA
CenturyTel of Cowiche, Inc.	CenturyLink	522410	WA
CenturyTel of Central Wisconsin, LLC	CenturyLink	331159	WI

COMPANY NAME	DBA NAME	Study Area Code	State(s) of Operation
CenturyTel of Fairwater-Brandon-Alto, LLC	CenturyLink	330877	WI
CenturyTel of Forestville, LLC	CenturyLink	330884	WI
CenturyTel of Larsen-Readfield, LLC	CenturyLink	330898	WI
CenturyTel of Monroe County, LLC	CenturyLink	330913	WI
CenturyTel of Northern Wisconsin, LLC	CenturyLink	330956	WI
CenturyTel of Southern Wisconsin, LLC	CenturyLink	330931	WI
CenturyTel of the Midwest-Kendall, LLC	CenturyLink	330924	WI
CenturyTel of the Midwest-Wisconsin, LLC (Casco)	CenturyLink	330857	WI
CenturyTel of the Midwest-Wisconsin, LLC (Cencom)	CenturyLink	330841	WI
CenturyTel of the Midwest-Wisconsin, LLC (Northwest)	CenturyLink	330922	WI
CenturyTel of the Midwest-Wisconsin, LLC (Platteville)	CenturyLink	330934	WI
CenturyTel of the Midwest-Wisconsin, LLC (Thorp)	CenturyLink	330959	WI
CenturyTel of the Midwest-Wisconsin, LLC (Wayside)	CenturyLink	330970	WI
CenturyTel of Wisconsin, LLC	CenturyLink	330895	WI
Telephone USA of Wisconsin, LLC	CenturyLink	331155	WI
CenturyTel of Northwest Wisconsin, LLC	CenturyLink	330950	WI, MN
CenturyTel of Wyoming, Inc.	CenturyLink	512299	WY
Qwest Corporation (Wyoming)	CenturyLink QC	515108	WY
United Telephone Company of the West (Wyoming)	CenturyLink of the West	511595	WY